

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Yugoslavia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Reaction to the "Djilas Affair" in Slovenia	DATE DISTR.	21 November 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED

Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. OPINION OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. When the "Djilas Affair" was first publicly aired, the people of Slovenia regarded it as no more than another Party squabble, and therefore 90 per cent of the people paid no attention to it. Among the reasons for this attitude are the facts that the geographic distance between Belgrade and Slovenia is great and that Milovan Djilas is a Serb.¹ In any case, Party circles in Slovenia were not influenced by the ideas expounded by Djilas.
2. The Slovene intellectuals felt that, while Djilas has a university education and is intellectually superior to most of the high ranking members of the Federation of Communists of Yugoslavia (FCY), he never stated or presented any clear political concept. He was neurotic, behaved like a bohemian, longed for public recognition, loved to read his writings to students in Belgrade cafes, and in general was ambitious and self-seeking. His idea of democratizing the Party was to allow more freedom to certain people only, especially himself. Basically Djilas was for the continuation of the Titoist brand of Communism in Yugoslavia; therefore, the charge that he had ties with the West, which was brought against him by the Central Committee of the FCY, was laughed at in Ljubljana.
3. In Slovenia it was felt that Djilas' attacks on the wives of certain high government officials did not represent part of his political thesis, but were the result of neurotic excitement arising from an atmosphere of kitchen and bedroom intrigue and the outbursts of envy existing in a primitive ruling class, which have characterized all Belgrade regimes.

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Comment: It is a common habit for non-Orthodox Yugoslavs to refer to the Orthodox population as Serbs, be they Serbs, Montenegrins, Bosnians, or Hercegovinians.

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